

Mamdouh Abdelkader and Yousra Abdelmoula



Our names are Yousra Abdelmoula and Mamdouh Abdelkader. We are a married couple from Egypt, a country famous for its ancient civilization dating back thousands of years. Having well-established jobs in Egypt did not dissuade us from pursuing graduate studies in Economics. After working for some years as Teaching Assistants in Economics, we decided to expand our existing knowledge through graduate studies at Memorial University of Newfoundland and we are currently completing our Masters of Economics degrees. Initially, we were captivated by the study of economics because of its case-based learning emphasis, in addition to its presence in almost every aspect of human lives. We firmly believe that the study of economics enhances understandings of both international and national interactions and their inner workings, particularly considering the recent volatility of global markets.

During our studies at Memorial University, we have been exposed to different and intensive economic materials that have further strengthened our knowledge and skills. For example, we were given the opportunity to learn enlightening concepts, such as modern microeconomic theory and its applications with Dr. C. Michael Wernerheim. Prior to coming to Memorial University, studying environmental economics and labour economics appealed to both of us and we were looking to strengthen our knowledge in both fields. After studying the latter topic with Dr. Tony Fang, we gained a broader vision of the functions and dynamics of labour markets and their interactions. We were also privileged to study environmental economics with Dr. Nikita Lyssenko, during which we applied various mathematical models to perform in-depth analyses of different environmental policies.

In addition to our studies, we have maintained our interest in economics through various positions. For example, after working as a Teaching Assistant and Assistant Lecturer in Egypt, I, Mamdouh, worked as a Research Economist for two years with Professor Gordon Fisher at Concordia University, during which I was involved in different research projects. I have also worked as a Research Assistant in the Department of Economics at Memorial University. Now, I am completing my MA essay under the supervision of Professor C. Michael Wernerheim. In addition to deepening my academic base in modern microeconomics, Dr. Wernerheim has further bolstered my research ability by providing various intellectual comments and recommendations. The experiences gained while studying Economics at Memorial University have greatly influenced my drive to achieve my future goals, which include pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics and working in the academic field.

Similarly, after working for three years as a Teaching Assistant in Egypt, I, Yousra, was offered the opportunity to work for The Collaborative Applied Research in Economics (CARE) centre during my MA studies at Memorial University, where I gained valuable experience. While my duties include some administrative tasks, I most enjoy working directly with students. I am currently working for the Help Center in the Department of Economics, where I tutor undergraduate students in courses such as Introduction to Microeconomics (ECON 1010) and Macroeconomics (ECON 1020). I provide academic assistance to students, in both individual and group settings, and encourages them to develop positive attitudes toward learning economics by providing a better understanding of economic material and improving their academic capabilities in designated areas. Surprisingly, working with undergraduate students has not only helped me to review material with which I am familiar, but it has also encouraged me to reconceptualize economic subjects in a comprehensive format deliverable to students. Pursing my Master of Economics degree at Memorial University will equip me for further specialization in the field of economics in the future.

We are extremely grateful for the continuing support from our professors, who have provided us with such an encouraging research environment. In this regard, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to Professor Wade Locke. Although we did not have the pleasure of studying with Dr. Locke, we would like to express our greatest thanks to him for his efforts to ensure the success of all students and for keeping his door open for any needed advice.

Finally, inspired by various people, we continue to reach for our goals. To borrow Nelson Mandela's saying, "It always seems impossible until it's done" and, as Stephen Hawking has said, "Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change".